

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of ~~printing~~ operating an electrographic printer to reduce toner consumption in an image, said method comprising the steps of:

converting the image into a digital bitmap comprised of an array of pixels wherein each pixel is assigned a digital value representing marking information;

defining each pixel as either a background pixel, interior pixel, or an edge pixel; and,

~~reassigning~~ decreasing the digital value of all of the pixels of at least one of the ~~or more~~ edge pixels [[or]] and the interior pixels to lower values independently such that the decreased digital value is the same for all edge pixels and the decreased digital value is the same for all interior pixels in order to reduce toner consumption of the electrographic printer.

2. (original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the converting step comprises converting the image to a binary digital bitmap and the reassigning step comprises reassigning the binary digital values to multi-bit digital values.

3. (original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the converting step comprises converting the image to a multi-bit digital bitmap and the reassigning step comprises reassigning the binary digital values to multi-bit digital values.

4. (currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the reassigning step comprises ~~increasing~~ decreasing the value of interior pixels with respect to edge pixels ~~with respect to interior pixels~~.

5. (original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the reassigning step comprises decreasing the value of edge pixels with respect to interior pixels.

6. (original) A method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising performing the defining and reassigning steps two or more times.

7. (original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the reassigning step comprises reassigning multiple interior pixel values.

8. (currently amended) A method of ~~printing~~ operating an electrographic printer to reduce toner consumption in an image, said method comprising the steps of:

converting the image into a digital bitmap comprised of an array of pixels wherein each pixel is assigned a digital value representing marking information;

defining each pixel as a background pixel, interior pixel, edge pixel, one line pixel, or two line pixel; and,

~~reassigning~~ decreasing the digital value of all of the pixels of at least one of the ~~or more~~ interior pixel, edge pixel, one line pixel, ~~[[or]]~~ and two line pixels to lower values independently in order to reduce toner consumption.

9. (original) A method in accordance with claim 8, wherein the converting step comprises converting the image to a binary digital bitmap and the reassigning step comprises reassigning the binary digital values to multi-bit digital values.

10. (original) A method in accordance with claim 8, wherein the converting step comprises converting the image to a multi-bit digital bitmap and the reassigning step comprises reassigning the binary digital values to multi-bit digital values.

11. (currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 8, wherein the reassigning step comprises ~~increasing~~ decreasing the value of interior pixels with respect to edge pixels ~~with respect to interior pixels~~.

12. (original) A method in accordance with claim 8, wherein the reassigning step comprises decreasing the value of edge pixels with respect to interior pixels.

13. (original) A method in accordance with claim 8, further comprising performing the defining and reassigning steps two or more times.

14. (currently amended) A method of printing operating an electrographic printer to reduce toner consumption in an image, said method comprising the steps of:

converting the image into a digital bitmap comprised of an array of pixels wherein each pixel is assigned a digital value representing marking information;

defining each pixel as either a background pixel, interior pixel, or an edge pixel; and,

reassigning decreasing the digital value of all of the pixels of at least one of the ~~or more~~ edge pixels [[or]] and the interior pixels to lower values independently such that the decreased digital value is the same for all edge pixels and the decreased digital value is the same for all interior pixels in order to reduce toner consumption of the electrographic printer.

15. (original) A method in accordance with claim 14, wherein the reassigning step comprises reassigning multiple interior pixel values.

16. (currently amended) An electrographic printer apparatus for altering the appearance of an image printed by a printer, the printer utilizing input digital image data comprised of an array of pixels and wherein each pixel is assigned a digital value representing marking information, the apparatus comprising a rendering circuit for defining each pixel as either a background pixel, interior pixel, or an edge pixel; and reassigning decreasing the digital value of all of the pixels of at least one ~~or more~~ of the edge pixels [[or]] and the interior pixels independently such that the decreased digital value is the same for all edge pixels and the decreased digital value is the same for all interior pixels in order to reduce toner consumption of the printer.

17. (original) An apparatus in accordance with claim 16, wherein the digital image data is binary.

18. (original) An apparatus in accordance with claim 16, wherein the digital image data is a multi-bit.

19. (currently amended) An apparatus in accordance with claim 16, wherein reassigning comprises ~~increasing~~ decreasing the value of interior pixels with respect to edge pixels ~~with respect to interior pixels~~.

20. (original) An apparatus in accordance with claim 16, wherein reassigning step comprises decreasing the value of edge pixels with respect to interior pixels.

21. (original) An apparatus in accordance with claim 16, wherein the rendering circuit further comprises performing the defining and reassigning steps two or more times.

22. (original) An apparatus in accordance with claim 16, wherein reassigning comprises reassigning multiple interior pixel values.

23. (currently amended) An electrographic printer apparatus for altering the appearance of an input digital image when printed utilizing a printer comprising:

a raster image processor for converting the image into a digital bitmap comprised of an array of pixels wherein each pixel is assigned a digital value representing marking information;

a rendering circuit for defining each pixel as either a background pixel, interior pixel, or an edge pixel; and, ~~reassigning for decreasing~~ for decreasing the digital value of all of the pixels of at least one of the ~~one or more~~ edge pixels [[or]] and the interior pixels to lower values independently such that the decreased digital value is the same for all edge pixels and the decreased digital value is the same for all interior pixels in order to reduce toner consumption.

24. (original) An apparatus in accordance with claim 23, wherein converting comprises converting the image to a binary digital bitmap and the reassigning step comprises reassigning the binary digital values to multi-bit digital values.

25. (original) An apparatus in accordance with claim 23, wherein converting comprises converting the image to a multi-bit digital bitmap and reassigning comprises reassigning the binary digital values to multi-bit digital values.

26. (currently amended) An apparatus in accordance with claim 23, wherein reassigning comprises ~~increasing~~ decreasing the value of interior pixels with respect to edge pixels ~~with respect to interior pixels~~.

27. (original) An apparatus in accordance with claim 23, wherein reassigning comprises decreasing the value of edge pixels with respect to interior pixels.

28. (original) An apparatus in accordance with claim 23, wherein the rendering circuit performs performing the defining and reassigning two or more times.

29. (original) An apparatus in accordance with claim 23, wherein reassigning comprises reassigning multiple interior pixel values.